NEWS RELEASE

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DPS SUSTAINS PERFORMANCE AND ACCREDITATION

On Wednesday, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) released accreditation and accountability results. Eleven schools at Danville Public Schools are fully accredited. In addition, eight of the 11 were designated as “Meets Expectations” or “Distinguished,” according to the VDOE’s School Performance and Support Framework (SPSF), which evaluates mastery, growth, readiness, and graduation using 2025-2026 data.

School Accreditation Results

According to the VDOE, the accreditation rating focuses on compliance with the Virginia Standards of Accreditation.

- Arnett Hills Elementary — Fully Accredited
- Activ8 STEM Academy Program — Cognia Accredited
- Forest Hills Elementary — Fully Accredited
- Galileo Magnet High School — Fully Accredited
- George Washington High — Fully Accredited
- O.T. Bonner Middle — Fully Accredited
- Park Avenue Elementary — Fully Accredited
- R.I.S.E. Alternative School — Conditionally Accredited
- Schoolfield Elementary — Fully Accredited
- Westwood Middle — Fully Accredited
- Woodberry Hills Elementary — Fully Accredited

Choice Program Activ8 STEM Academy received full accreditation from Cognia, a nationally recognized accrediting agency that evaluates schools on rigorous standards of instructional quality, leadership, and continuous improvement.

R.I.S.E. Academy has been conditionally accredited based on its overall performance score in the School Performance and Support Framework when compared to other Title I schools.

In addition, Grove Park and Northside Preschools have received “Meets Expectations” in the Virginia Quality Birth to 5 Ratings.

School Performance and Support Framework Results (SPSF)

According to the VDOE, the SPSF accountability system focuses on student outcomes by school. It includes state policies and federal accountability requirements.

Galileo Magnet High School and Forest Hills Elementary School received the prestigious "Distinguished" designation, the highest rating in the framework, marking it as a model of best practices from which other schools across Virginia can learn.

Based on their SPSF score, George Washington High School earned points for "Distinguished" designation, but their federal identification status of Targeted Support and Improvement requires a level drop in their designations to "Meets Expectations."

Seven DPS schools earned the "Meets Expectations" designation, recognizing schools that are fully meeting Virginia's expectations:

- Forest Hills Elementary
- George Washington High
- O.T. Bonner Middle
- Park Avenue Elementary
- Schoolfield Elementary
- Westwood Middle
- Woodberry Hills Elementary

Arnett Hills and Gibson earned points for "Approaching Expectations" designations based on their SPSF scores, but their federal identification status of Targeted Support and Improvement requires a level drop in their designations to "Needs Intensive Support."

R.I.S.E. Alternative School was designated as "Needs Intensive Support."

School	SPSF Score 2025	SPSF Score 2026	SPSF Designation 2026	Federal Identification 2026	SPSF Updated Designation* 2026	Accreditation Status 2026
ACTIV8 STEM Academy*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Cognia Accredited
Arnett Hills Elementary	New School	76.3	Approaching Expectations	Targeted Support & Improvement (TSI)	Needs Intensive Support	Fully Accredited
E.A. Gibson Elementary	74.8	75.7	Approaching Expectations	Targeted Support & Improvement (TSI)	Needs Intensive Support	Fully Accredited
Forest Hills Elementary	86.2	90.0	Distinguished	N/A	Distinguished	Fully Accredited
Park Avenue Elementary	83.2	84.0	Meets Expectations	N/A	Meets Expectations	Fully Accredited
Schoolfield Elementary	81.0	80.4	Meets Expectations	N/A	Meets Expectations	Fully Accredited

Woodberry Hills Elementary	80.8	86.6	Meets Expectations	N/A	Meets Expectations	Fully Accredited
O.T. Bonner Middle	86.2	86.4	Meets Expectations	N/A	Meets Expectations	Fully Accredited
Westwood Middle	83.0	82.3	Meets Expectations	N/A	Meets Expectations	Fully Accredited
R.I.S.E. Alternative School	55.9	54.5	Needs Intensive Support	Comprehensive Support & Improvement (CSI)	Needs Intensive Support	Conditionally Accredited
Galileo High	98.5	96.3	Distinguished	N/A	Distinguished	Fully Accredited
George Washington High	82.1	89.7	Distinguished	Targeted Support & Improvement (TSI)	Meets Expectations	Fully Accredited

Schools exiting Comprehensive Support and Improvement status

E.A. Gibson Elementary, Woodberry Hills Elementary, and Westwood Middle all exited their Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) federal identification status after three years. Previously, these schools were marked as CSI due to their low performance among Title I schools.

Graduation Rate

George Washington High increased their graduation rate to 84.8% in 2026 from 73% in 2025, the highest it has been since the current tracking protocol was implemented in 2008.

Chronic Absenteeism

The district's chronic absenteeism has improved to 9.4% from 35.6% in 2020-2021. Gibson Elementary, Forest Hills Elementary, Arnett Hills/Johnson Elementary, Schoolfield Elementary, and George Washington High have shown decreases in chronic absenteeism each year since 2023-2024.

VDOE Region VI Leaderboard

In a snapshot of Region VI, DPS schools rank among the top in the region in several areas.

- Top 5 Growth - Math: Forest Hills
- Top 5 Readiness - Chronic Absenteeism: O.T. Bonner, Westwood
- Top 5 Gains in Overall SPSF Score: George Washington
- Top 5 Readiness - 6-Year Graduation Rate: Galileo
- Top 5 Readiness - 4-Year Graduation Rate: Galileo
- Top 5 Mastery - Reading: Galileo
- Top 5 Mastery - Math: Galileo
- Top 5 Mastery - Science: Galileo

Looking Ahead

DPS will maintain standards-aligned curriculum and instruction with a focus on high-quality instructional materials. The district will also continue its district-led academic audits, with an intense focus on reviewing real-time individual student data and targeted instructional decision-making. In addition, the division will strengthen academic planning and graduation monitoring, increase family engagement opportunities, and improve operational efficiency through continuous improvement processes. The district would like to remind parents to partner with teachers so they can ensure students are taking advantage of all educational opportunities.

In addition, Dr. Hairston will establish a review of alternative education services at RISE. The results of that review will be shared with the School Board and general public as the work progresses. The division will also participate in the competitive grant program for schools identified federally as needing support.

The division will use its new 2026-2031 Strategic Plan as a roadmap to guide work and track progress towards goals.

“These results are a reflection of the dedication and commitment of our staff, students, and families,” Superintendent Dr. Angela Hairston said. “We are proud to see how many of our schools were recognized for their strong performance. We are also encouraged by the progress of schools that have exited CSI status and by the significant increase in GW’s graduation rate. While we celebrate these accomplishments, we know there is still work to do, especially with our schools federally identified.”

“As a School Board, we are encouraged by the progress reflected in this year’s results,” said School Board Chair Ty’Quan Graves. “We know that continued progress takes teamwork, accountability, and a shared commitment to our students. We will continue to support the work happening in our schools and remain focused on creating opportunities for every student to reach their full potential.”